

In the Claims:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An electric toothbrush comprising a housing formed from a first material and including a handle, a brush head, and a neck extending between said handle and said brush head, characterized in that said housing further includes a first gripping member disposed along an exterior region of said housing, said first gripping member formed from a second material softer than said first material, said first gripping member having a first substantially concave recessed region on an exposed exterior surface thereof, and a second gripping member formed from said second material, said second gripping member defining a second substantially concave recessed region on an exposed exterior surface thereof, whereby said first and second recessed regions are useful in assisting a user to grasp the handle during use of the toothbrush.

Claim 2 (Original): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said housing of said toothbrush defines a longitudinal axis, and said first and said second gripping members are symmetrically disposed on said housing with respect to said longitudinal axis.

Claim 3 (Original): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said first gripping member has a length of from about 25 mm to about 65 mm, and a width of from about 12 mm to about 25 mm.

Claim 4 (Original): The electric toothbrush of claim 3 wherein said first recessed region has a length of from about 25 mm to about 38 mm, a width of from about 9 mm to about 15 mm, and a depth of from about 3 mm to about 10 mm.

Claim 5 (Original): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said second material has a Shore A hardness between about 30 and about 99.

Claim 6 (Original): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second gripping members is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of elastomers and rubber-based materials.

Claim 7 (Original): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said housing further includes a third gripping member disposed along an exterior region of said housing between said first and second gripping members.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): ~~The electric~~ An electric toothbrush of claim 7  
wherein comprising a housing formed from a first material and including a handle, a brush head,  
and a neck extending between said handle and said brush head, characterized in that said  
housing further includes a gripping member disposed along an exterior region of said housing,  
said first gripping member formed from a second material softer than said first material, said  
first gripping member having a first recessed region, a second gripping member formed from  
said second material, said second gripping member defining a second recessed region, and a  
third gripping member disposed along an exterior region of said housing between said first and

second gripping members, said third gripping member has a positionable actuator disposed therein for controlling operation of said toothbrush.

Claim 9 (Original): The electric toothbrush of claim 7 wherein said third gripping member is formed from a material having a Shore A hardness between about 30 and about 99.

Claim 10 (New): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said first and second gripping members have generally convex shapes.

Claim 11 (New): The electric toothbrush of claim 10 wherein the generally convex shapes of said first and second gripping members are contoured to match said housing.

Claim 12 (New): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said first and second generally concave recessed regions thereof having generally oval shapes when viewed in a planar fashion.

Claim 13 (New): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said first and second gripping members are separate and distinct from each other.

Claim 14 (New): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said first and second gripping members are symmetrically disposed on a rearward side of said housing so that said toothbrush may be used by both left-handed and right-handed individuals.

Claim 15 (New): The electric toothbrush of claim 1 further including a positionable actuator disposed in said housing for controlling operation of said toothbrush.